

GLOSSARY

Adaptation: A change in plant or animal that increases its chances for survival.

Adaptive radiation: Extensive speciation from a common ancestral population.

Alien: In the text, this refers to plants or animals that were introduced to Hawai'i by people.

Asymmetrical: When corresponding parts, such as the upper and lower beak of a bird, exhibit differences in size, shape, or relative position. This is seen in the crossed beak of the Hawai'i Akepa.

'Aumakua: Household or personal god in Hawaiian culture.

Degrade: To reduce in quality or value.

Disharmonic biota: A flora and fauna lacking many of the plants and animals found on continents. (Many plants and animals that one might expect to find in a continental environment did not reach Hawai'i due to the islands extreme isolation.)

Diurnal: The name given to creatures active during the day.

Drepanids: Classification of birds that feed primarily on nectar, the Hawaiian honeycreepers are in this group.

Endangered species: Government agencies list a species as endangered (under the Endangered Species Act) when it is threatened with extinction in the foreseeable future.

Endemic: Native to a particular place and found nowhere else.

Extinct: A species that no longer exists.

Fall-out: When seabirds become tired, disoriented and fall to the ground due to an unnatural attraction to bright, man-made lights. Example: Newell's Shearwater.

Fledge: The point at which a young bird has grown enough to begin to fly. A fledgling is the name for these young birds.

Glean: To gather (drepanids often glean nectar from 'ōhi'a blossoms for food.)

Habitat: The place where a plant or animal lives and, which provides all they need to survive.

Indigenous: Native to a particular place, but also found elsewhere (Many of Hawai'i's seabirds are indigenous; they arrived here without human assistance, but they also occur in other areas.)

Insectivorous: An animal that feeds primarily on insects.

Invertebrate: Lacking a spinal column. Example: Insects

Lobed: In this context, feet that have reduced or no webbing.

Microclimate: A distinct climate found in a small or confined area.

Migrate: To move from one region or climate to another (for birds this is for feeding or breeding.)

Mutation: Changes that occur at the genetic level in an organism.

Native: In Hawai'i, this term refers to plants and animals that arrived here without human assistance.

Niche: The function or ecological roll of an organism within its particular environment or community.

Nocturnal: The name given to creatures active during the night.

Plumage: Feathers on a bird.

Population: The number of animals of one species that live in a specific place.

Predation: The act of one animal consuming another as food.

Raptor: A bird of prey. Hawai'i has two native raptors, the Pueo and the 'Io.

Seabird: A bird that frequents the open ocean, coming ashore to roost and nest.

Specialized: Habits developed to make use of a specific element of a habitat that other animals do not. This can lead to a survival advantage in isolated island environments to avoid competition for a finite resource.

Speciation: Evolution of a new species.

Species: A population of plants or animals that cannot or will not interbreed with related populations.

Threatened species: Government agencies will designate a species as threatened (under the Endangered Species Act) if it is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

Vertebrate: Animals with a spinal column.

Webbing: A membrane or fold of skin connecting toes. This characteristic is seen on many waterbirds.

*This Glossary may also be used as an accompaniment to the **Forest Birds of Hawai'i** and **Open Country and Wetland Birds of Hawai'i** Posters.